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UPTON-ON-SEVERN RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1938

BY

M. J. QUIRKE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

WITH

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

BY

H. E. FIRTH, Cert. Royal San. Ins.

HENRY BAYLIS, WORCESTER AND LONDON

Upton-on-Severn Rural Sanitary District.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1938.

To:—

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my eighth Annual Report.

It has been framed in conformity with Circular No. 1728 of the Ministry of Health.

I have tried to make the Report concise and to limit it, as far as possible to a statement of facts. The Registrar-General's figures became available at an even later date than last year. This is unfortunate, as it is always easier to review a year just ended than one which is already becoming remote.

My thanks are once again due to the Council for their uniform courtesy and support, to the County Health Department and to the District Staff for their kind co-operation. I am also grateful to the Medical Practitioners who are always actively instrumental in endeavouring to prevent the spread of disease.

Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area—Land and Inland water—50,947 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population: 12,610.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books: 3,457.

Rateable Value: £51,942 (1st April). Sum represented by a penny rate: £217, to nearest pound.

Social Conditions.

There were no marked changes or developments during the year under review and there is therefore no need to repeat, or add to remarks made in former years.

Mental health, in particular, is apt to be strained during times of international tension; but there is little, if any sign of loss of poise or of hysteria amongst the general population.

I understand that the Council's scheme for sharing in the National Fitness Campaign has made no further progress, hindered perhaps by more urgent activities.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births: Legitimate: Total 142. Males 70. Females 72. Illegitimate: Total 4. Males 1. Females 3.

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 11.5. The rate for England and Wales was 15.1.

Still-births: Total 4. Males 3 (Legitimate). Females 1 (legitimate). Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 26.6.

Deaths: Total 148. Males 81. Females 67.

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 11.7. The rate for England and Wales was 11.6.

If allowance be made for sex and age distribution in the District the *corrected* Death-rate was 8.19 and this figure affords a truer comparison with the rate for England and Wales.

Deaths from puerperal sepsis: 1.

Rate per 1,000 total births, 6.6.

Deaths from other puerperal causes: Nil.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births: 41.09 (E. & W. 53).

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births: 42.2.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births: Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (All ages): 22.

,, ,, Measles (All ages): 0.

,, ,, Whooping Cough (All ages): 1.

,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age): 0.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality.

The death-rate remained low and the number of deaths was only two in excess of the number of live-births.

One infant under 1 year of age died of Pneumonia, 5 from prematurity or congenital defect.

Section B.

In compliance with Circular No. 1728 of the Ministry of Health I append the requisite particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Authority:

i. (a) Medical.

Name.	*Duties.*	*Any special qualification.*
Quirke, M. J., M.B. Ch.B. (part-time)	Medical Officer of Health.	D.P.H. (Major, Indian Medical Service), R.P.
Ballinger, O. D., B.A., B.M., B.Ch.	Medical Officer Isolation Hospital.	
(b) Others.		
Firth, H. E., M.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspector. Sanitary Surveyor. Inspector under Petroleum Acts.	
Meynell, W. H., M.S.I.A.	Additional Sanitary Inspector.	
White, M. E. (Miss)	Matron: Isolation Hospital.	Fever training.
Lodwick, L. M. (Miss)	Assistant ditto.	ditto.

(*a*) Laboratory facilities. All work is carried out in the County Laboratory.

(*b*) Ambulance facilities. There has been no change in the arrangements, which have proved adequate.

I have had no complaints of delay.

(*c*) Nursing in the home. Facilities are afforded by the Committees of the District Nursing Association.

(*d*) Treatment Centres and Clinics are under the control of the County Council.

(*e*) Hospitals. The Isolation Hospital is owned by the Local Authority.

Infectious cases, other than Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, are treated at Worcester or Malvern.

Section C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) Water. I received fourteen copies of the results of analysis and bacteriological examination of the Upton deep bore-hole water, carried out at different times. Chemically, the results were, as usual satisfactory.

On account of the presence of earth-organisms, chlorination was resumed. The result of a test in June seemed to show that this was less effective than formerly.

At my suggestion the County Analyst kindly estimated the amount of available chlorine in the solution used. He found it to be 5.2% W/V against 11.1% W/V in a fresh sample of the same solution.

These Chlorine solutions are not stable and in cases where a supply has been in store for long it is necessary to check the Chlorine content and to adjust the dose accordingly.

Of 32 samples of well waters only 5 were considered suitable for drinking without purification. Nine were of doubtful quality and the rest bad.

Unclean surroundings and structural defects are chiefly to blame but in some cases the water is excessively hard.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

The Sanitary Inspector's Statement gives the details of work carried out during the year.

2. Rivers and Streams. No special steps to check pollution have been taken other than those connected with improved sewage disposal and the cleansing of ditches.

3. (i) Closet accommodation. Particulars are given by the Sanitary Inspector.

(ii) Public cleansing. A District Scavenging service is now in operation. Details are included in the Sanitary Inspectors Report.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area. Details are included in the Sanitary Inspector's Statement.

(iv) Shops. No action has been taken under the Act of 1934.

(v) Camping Sites.

1. No. of sites in area which were used for camping purposes during 1938 (as defined in Section 269 Public Health Act 1936)	7
2. No. of licences issued by Local Authority during 1938	4
3. Estimated maximum number of campers resident in area at one time during the Summer of 1938 including campers using Camps excluded from the Act	300
4. No. of inspections made of Camping Sites (as defined by Section 269 Public Health Act 1936) ..	12

(vi) Smoke Abatement. No nuisance arises.

(vii) Swimming Baths. (a) Public. There are none. (b) Privately owned. The one bath, closed during 1937 was re-opened in 1938. A sample of the water taken in July was found to be satisfactory, chemically and bacteriologically.

(viii) Eradication of bed-bugs. I am informed that no house in the district was found to be infested.

(ix) Hop-pickers, etc.

At Flaxhouse Farm 70-80 outside pickers were employed and accommodated and of these only about 7 were men. One man was kept on sanitary duty. Dustbins are provided and the cooking-places now have concrete floors. Conditions were found to be satisfactory at my inspection.

4. Schools.

Sanitation and water-supply call for no addition to the remarks made in my Report for 1936.

Eldersfield School was closed from the 18th July until the summer holiday began on the 27th on account of Scarlet Fever. Only one case occurred and closure was only agreed to because it was reported that most of the children were being kept away from school by their parents. Severn Stoke School was closed from the 30th September to the 10th October, also on account of Scarlet Fever. The outbreak ceased, but more cases occurred in November.

Kempsey School was closed from the 10th to 17th October on account of Diphtheria. Certificates for low attendance were given in five instances.

Section D. Housing.

The particular set out below are furnished by the Sanitary Inspector in his statement of work done during the year, submitted in compliance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order (1926).

Housing Statistics.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses* during the year:—

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 450.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose, c. 500.

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head [1] above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, 107.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose, c. 121.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 40.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 163.

Remedy of Defects.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action, 79.

Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1930:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, 2.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after services of formal notices, 1.

By owners, 1.

By Local Authority, 0.

Section 11 *and* 13 *Housing Acts*, 1936.

(1) Number of notices served calling upon owners of dwelling-houses to appear before Council to show cause why such dwelling-house should not be demolished, 39.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made, 17.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in persuance of Demolition orders, 22.

Housing Act, 1936—*Part IV.—Overcrowding:—*

1. (a) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of year, 30.

   (b) Number of families dwelling therein, 30.

   (c) Number of persons dwelling therein, 213.

2. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year, 0.

3. (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, 13.

   (b) Number of persons concerned in such cases, 94.

Rural Workers (Housing) Act, 1926-31.

Number of schemes for reconditioning submitted to County Council during the year, 25.

Number of schemes accepted by County Council during the year, 25.

Number of schemes for reconditioning completed during the year, 23.

Section E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) *Milk Supply.* There are 350 producers on the Register. Efforts are being made to improve conditions where they are unsatisfactory.

(b) *Meat and other Foods.* There is nothing to add to the Sanitary Inspector's Statement in regard to meat.

(c) *Adulteration, etc.* This is not within the Council's administration.

(d) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.* The County Laboratory carries out this work.

(e) *Nutrition.* There is nothing to add to my remarks of last year.

(f) *Shellfish.* I know of no beds or layings in the District. I have no information regarding the marketing of any shellfish in the District.

Section F. Prevalence of and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

2. *General.*

Table III is appended.

There was a big fall in the number of cases of Pneumonia notified during the year but the number of deaths was the same as during 1937.

No case was notified after July.

Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were both unusually prevalent, especially the former.

In each case less than one tenth of the cases occurred at ages under five years. The one case of Enteric occurred in a member of the staff of the Mental Hospital, whose movements were not confined to the District. The source of infection could not be defined with certainty.

The one death from Puerperal Sepsis followed prolonged labour, the result of mal-presentation.

4. (a) *Prevention of Blindness.* No action was taken.

(b) *Tuberculosis.* No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

5. *Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during* 1937.

Table IV appended gives the total number of new cases and the deaths of Residents only, whether dying in the District or outside.

Only three deaths of residents occurred during the year. One case was not notified until after death. The patient was a recent arrival in the district and was only seen by a doctor shortly before death.

Seventy-six cases remained on the Register at the end of the year and of these fifty-two were lung infections.

The incidence rate of all forms for the District was 1.2 per 1,000 inhabitants and the death-rate was 0.2 per 1,000.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) M. J. QUIRKE,

27th June, 1939. *Medical Officer of Health.*

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of District during the past Five Years.

Year:	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Mid-yearly population	12,550	12,550	12,800	12,690	12,610
Births attributable to District	169	161	144	136	146
Rate per 1,000 of Population	13.4	12.8	11.2	10.7	11.5
Deaths registered in District	220*	215*	209	213	206*
Transferable Deaths:					
(i) Non-residents, registered in District	101*	77*	67	89	74*
(ii) Residents, not registered in District	31*	24*	27	38	18*
Deaths attributable to District:					
(i) Under 1 year of age	5	11	7	8	6
Rate per 1,000 births	29.58	68.3	48.6	58.8	41
(ii) At all ages ..	152	161	169	162	148
Rate per 1,000 of Population	12.9	12.8	13.2	12.7	11.7

*These figures are my own and relate to the deaths which *occurred* during the year. The Registrar-General's figures relate to deaths *registered* during the year; hence the slight discrepancy.

TABLE II.

Causes of Death in 1938.

	Male	*Female*
All causes	81	67
Typhoid and paratyphoid	—	1
Measles	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1
Diphtheria	1	—
Influenza	—	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	—
Other tuberculosis	1	1
G.P.I. Tabes, etc.	1	—
Cancer	13	9
Diabetes	3	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	1	4
Heart disease	30	21
Aneurysm	—	—
Other circulatory	6	6
Bronchitis	1	3
Pneumonia	4	1
Other respiratory	—	—
Peptic Ulcer	—	—
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—
Other Liver Diseases	—	1
Other digestive	2	—
Nephritis	2	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—	1
Other Puerperal Diseases	—	—
Congenital Causes, etc.	4	2
Senility	1	2
Suicide	—	—
Other violence	4	1
Other defined Causes	5	10
Ill-defined Causes	1	—

TABLE III.

Notification of Infectious Disease 1938

Disease.	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-19 yrs.	20-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 and over.	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	35	–	1	–	–	2	11	11	2	6	2	–	–	31	–
Diphtheria	13	–	–	1	–	–	6	3	1	1	1	–	–	12	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1a
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	1
Pneumonia	14	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	2	–	1	8	–	–	5b
Erysipelas	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	–
Totals	67	–	1	1	–	2	18	16	5	9	4	10	1	43	8

a. Notified and died outside the District.
b. Includes all deaths from Pneumonia, notifiable or not.

TABLE IV.

Tuberculosis.

Summary of all new cases and of deaths attributable to the area during 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1—4 ..	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
5—9 ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
10—14 ..	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
15—19 ..	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
20—24 ..	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
25—34 ..	–	2	–	1	–	–	–	1
35—44 ..	2	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
45—54 ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
55—64 ..	2	1	–	–	1	–	–	–
65 & upwards	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals ..	5	5	1	5	1	–	1	1

TABLE V.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1938.

Infectious Disease.

Visits to houses on account of Notifiable disease	47
Houses disinfected after Notifiable disease ..	53
Other houses disinfected	3

House Drainage.

Drains laid or relaid	2,500 yds.
Drains tested by water or smoke ..	2,800 yds.
Length of obstructed drains dealt with ..	12
,, ,, defective ,, ,, ,, ..	6
Number of privy closets converted ..	About 36
Number of Pail closets converted to Water Closets	,, 12

Sewerage.

Parishes where sewerage schemes or improvement in sewerage is necessary:—

Powick (Bastonford Area).
Welland.
Newland.
Ripple.
Severn Stoke.

Public Cleansing.

Area served by scheme	Whole District
When collected	Fortnightly
Type of refuse	House Refuse, Trade Refuse above one Bin charged for

Approx. No. of premises refuse collected from .. 2,600

Approx. amount of refuse collected during year 1,100 tons

Water Supply.

Parishes supplied by Public supply:

Large portion of Upton-on-Severn parish;

Small portion of Powick parish;

Small portion of Newland parish.

Parishes supplied by Private pipe supply:—

Portion of Madresfield Parish.

Number of Wells repaired and cleansed	6
Number of samples of water taken for analysis	46
Number of samples found unfit for drinking ..	23

Slaughter Houses and Food Inspection.

Number of Slaughter Houses in District:— ..	10
(a) Registered ..	3
(b) Licenced	7
Number of cases of Slaughtering on unlicenced premises	3

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle	*Calves*	*Sheep and Lambs*	*Pigs*
No. killed	490	115	2,756	598
No. inspected ..	430	109	1,455	523

All diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	2	0	6	2

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	2	0	0	17

Milk.

Number of producers on Register	350
Number of Licences (Milk, Special Designations Order):—	
Tuberculin Tested (Producers)	4
Accredited	22
Pasteurised (Producers)	1
,, (Retailers)	3
Number of Cowsheds Inspected	79

Other Matters.

Offensive Trades	None in District
Lodging Houses and Houses let in lodgings ,, ,, ,,	
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act cases dealt with	2
Nuisance arising from domestic animals	1 case investigated

(Sgd.) H. E. FIRTH.

Sanitary and Housing Surveyor and Inspector.